

A P P E N D I X.

Nº XIII.

COPIES of LETTERS from Mr. DUFFIN to Mr. MEARES.

[In Mr. Meares's Memorial of 30th April, 1790. No. IX.]

Nootka Sound, July 12th, 1789.

DEAR SIR,

I BEG to inform you, per favour of Mr. Barnett, with our safe arrival in Nootka Sound, after a pleasant passage of nine weeks and four days, during which time nothing material happened. We lived in the greatest harmony and good friendship during the time we have been together, and every thing promised fair for a continuation of the same; every officer on board seeming strenuous for their employers' interest. We made the coast of America July 3d, at Woody Point, and stood along shore under an easy sail during the night. In the morning several natives came off, with the rest Comekela (that was brought by you from Macao to Nootka); from him we learnt there were five vessels in Friendly Cove, but could not learn of what nation they were; however he informed us they had captured the North-West American schooner, commanded by Mr. Funter. We immediately conjectured that the vessels were some belonging to Mr. Etches, and the American ship and sloop. We made all the sail we could, intending to get in that night if possible. On our nearing the Sound we saw a sloop coming out, which we were informed was the Princess Royal, belonging to our concern. We then had not the least doubt but there were some of Mr. Etches' vessels in the Cove. When we were about two miles from the entrance of the Sound, we saw a boat coming towards us; it was then between nine and ten o'clock, so that we could not discern of what country they were. They hailed us in Spanish, and asked if they might be permitted to come on board. They were answered in the affirmative; on which they came alongside, and the officer with several other gentlemen stepped up. We found the former to be the Spanish Commodore; those who accompanied him were of his ship. After having welcomed them on board, Captain Colnett asked them down into the great cabin; what their conversation was there I am unacquainted with; but Captain Colnett soon told me his intention was to go into Friendly Cove, and the Spanish launch took us in tow accordingly. About ten minutes after this, Mr. Barnett came on board, whom I directly introduced to Captain Colnett, who informed him that there was a Spanish frigate of twenty-six guns, and a snow of sixteen lying in the Cove, as also the American ship and sloop; that the former had erected a fort on Hog Island, on which sixteen guns were mounted, and had taken possession of the Sound in the name of his most Catholic Majesty

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